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Essay (Final Mock)

## Q2 Digital Platforms: New Battleground for Free Speech.

### 1. Introduction

Unregulated free speech and exploitation of algorithms have turned digital platforms into battlegrounds. Extreme and hostile debates have eased the process of conflicts and war. Thus, it is necessary to regulate and monitor the content of free speeches with laws and policies.

### 2. How digital platforms are a new battleground for free speech?

2.2 Cross firing of hate speech during tense relations push nations to war. case in point: India and Pakistan people indulged in hate speeches which escalated the conditions in May 2025.

2.2. Bombing social platforms with extreme contents provokes extremism

Case in point: Associating Islam and terrorism has made Muslims all over the world to face discrimination due to extreme narratives.

2.3. Character assassination of influential body marginalize and criticize the person

Case in point: Exposure of Epstein files criticized and defamed influential people

2.4. Weaponizing fragmented data in hostile speech to shape mind of people through digital platforms.

Case in point: Modi, President of India use fragmented data to shape mind of Indian people.

2.5. Aiming the arrow of blame to nations through digital media has intensified changing world order.

Case in point: USA blamed China for COVID-19 pandemic. USA reinforced its accusation on social media with tweets.

2.6. Strangling particular class or minority with radical speeches on social media has uplifted chaos among nations

Case in Point: Black Lives Matter was campaigned in reaction to hate speech and hostile content against black people in USA

2.7. Ongoing conflicts are participated and condemned with digital speeches.

Case in Point: Israel versus Hamas Conflict saw worldwide debates and narratives.

3. How to curb digital platform from becoming a new battleground with free speech?

3.1. Penalties and conviction should be structured to deter people from hostile and extreme speeches.

3.2. Digital platform policies should be formulated to provide people limits of free speech

3.3. Keep Algorithmic control to promote unbiased and positive speeches.

3.4. Awareness Campaign that educate people about free speech as it must not infringe rights of others.

#### 4. Conclusion

If the advancing digital platforms are left on their own, they can worsen and exploit the fundamental right of speech with hostility. Consequently, to deescalate tensions, monitoring of free speech should be done.

“Future depends upon what we do today”

Mahatma Gandhi

Joseph Nye, a political scientist, in his book, *The Future of Power*, has stated that power in modern world increasingly rests on influence, not coercion. He clearly emphasize on influence spread through digital debates and speeches. People use speech as a tool to convey their thoughts and perspectives. Free speech which is a fundamental right, according to international law, allows every individual to share content without restrictions. Evidence has proved that negative and hostile speeches have far more trended than positive and peaceful speeches. The reason behind could be manual algorithmic exploitation, or it even could be people's own interest. However, whatever the case is, negative and hostile speeches have turned digital platforms into a new battlegrounds. People are sharing inspiteful content through video, images and speeches. Viral trend has further given push to hostile speeches. Nations are cross firing one another with accusations, blames and

Misinterpreted data. Podcasting, video messages, tweets and live streaming have created threat as any moment or any word could trigger personal or political fights. People are using digital platforms as a weapon to assassinate character of a nation, politician or a leader. Hence, social media and all digital platforms requires to be chained and monitored. Efficient policies, laws and conviction can deescalate the tensions of digital platforms as a battlegrounds.

Looking deep into the evidences that loudly pronounce how digital platforms are a new battleground for free speech, crossfiring of hate speeches are at the top to be considered. People share hate through words for another. This could be one sided. However, people do not care about consequences. They just spread hate which multiplies with support of different people on digital platforms. Even nations are not behind in sharing

hateful speeches. Famous politicians shared hostile speeches through digital platform both from Pakistan and India. India accused Pakistan of Pchelgam attack of April 2025. Hostility spread like a fire. People of both nations share hostile contents. They mocked one another through social media platforms. X platform, facebook, Youtube each platform was filled with inspiteful content for one another. Thus, free speech allowed people to wage war with words using digital platforms.

Evaluating further proofs of social media as a battleground for free speech, fight through extreme content could not be negated. People share extreme remarks and words without empathy. From personal to global level, every individual has somehow been part of extremism. They either faced it <sup>or</sup> provoked it. Islamophobia was spread through

digital platforms. It made muslims all over the world face consequences.

Paris attack of 2020 when muslim women were stabbed due to attire. The extreme hate and disgust is associated with all people when any particular event from particular cast, ethnic or religion occurs. People blame entire sector and reinforce this belief through social media debates and speeches. Hence, social media has turned into battleground which allow majority to punish another majority or minority for the consequence act of one person.

Battlegrounds also use tactic of character assassination as it devalue the opponent. It also makes the opponent lose without hesitancy.

Digital platforms have appeared as warzones with various lethal tools.

Viral trends and character assassination has triggered a lot in recent years.

To see it further, no one knows or limited people know about welfare

speeches of the same day when Epstein files were exposed. Algorithm of digital platform only spread the Epstein file like a fire. This file exposed illegal and unethical act of famous people. It included US President, Bill Gates, Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking. Various politicians, businessmen and influencing personalities were exposed. Though, it was condemnable acts. However, spreading them on social media and using them against character assassination is a loud claim that digital platforms are used as battle grounds.

Weaponizing fragmented data is also the part of battles which are being fought on social media or digital platforms. People use particular data and hide complete data in order to spread false narrative. This misinformation and disinformation is a tool of digital platform for fighting. It has been witnessed

that Modi uses misinformation and disinformation against Pakistan to trigger its people with hostility against Pakistani people. The purpose is that misinformation and disinformation benefits Modi. Peshawar attack on 22 April and abandoning of water treaty with Pakistan on 23 April clearly expose the nation agenda. Post attack and suspension of treaty, digital media was used to validate the act and defame Pakistan with terrorism. The purpose was to associate bad narratives with Pakistan in global forum. Thus, use of digital platforms amplify ground battles and spread hostility without verifying speeches.

Blaming nations through social media is another tactic used by nations and people. They aim the arrow of blame using digital platforms to curb or contain another nation.

USA blamed China for spreading Covid-19 pandemic. He spread the accusation throughout the world

through digital platforms. Moreover, from time to time USA post and utter containing words for china. Changing global order has given a chance to digital platforms to act as battlegrounds for hateful speeches, blame games and hostility. This allows one country to spread biasedness against another. Consequently, free speech is doing more harm without any restrictions than benefits.

To add further, digital platforms are used as battlefield to strangle particular class or minority with radical speeches. People use algorithmic bias and spread racism, classism and sectarianism. All the three evils are being witnessed throughout the world. People use digital platforms to trigger religious or class sentiments against another.

White people supremacy have blamed black people of digesting their jobs, place, lifestyle in USA.

Extreme narratives are spread and exploited on social media. In reaction, people has also seen hostility from Black people through Black-life-matter Campaign. **Black versus white people** speeches are spread through social media as it has turned into battlefield for them. Thus, digital platform uses free speech to start a war with unpredictable endings.

Additionally, ongoing global conflicts are another proof where digital platforms are being used as battleground. Russia and Ukraine conflict was mediated with social media platforms. Even **Palestine and Israel war** is mediated through social media. People from all over the world are participating and condemning through free speech. They are giving hostile remarks for Israel. People are themselves part of war by using digital platforms. They are sending

digital aids through funds. They are  
changing war dilemma with digital  
platforms. Hence, without any  
doubt, digital platforms have  
turned into battlegrounds with free  
speech.

Thus, it is necessary to  
curb the digital platforms and chain  
the free speech for avoiding  
conflicts and wars. International laws  
should be structured and followed.

Convictions should be highlighted  
for breaching the boundaries of  
free speech. Extreme narratives should  
be banned. People should be  
penalized and punished for their  
hateful speeches. This can deter  
people. Moreover, digital platforms  
should be integrated with advance  
algorithms that should diminish  
spread of hateful speeches. Convictions,  
algorithmic advancement can deter  
people from sharing unethical  
and biased speeches.

To further describe the digital platforms from turning into battlefields, policies should be formulated. Both national and international policies should coincide. It should limit the boundaries of free speech. People must be restricted from sharing hostile and conflicting speeches. Free speech must not harm other identity, and wage war. Hence, rules and policies should be updated with severe consequences. Restricting people is the dire need of hour to control ongoing conflicts, and to prevent new wars. Updated policies and laws can be helpful in this regard.

Algorithmic Control is the essential element in securing digital platforms from turning into battlegrounds. Biased algorithms should be eliminated. Viral trends should be updated. Negative content

should not be popularized. New algorithmic systems should be incorporated that pushes positive and peaceful narratives. It must hinder spread of hateful speeches. Algorithmic correction can play a crucial role in preventing digital platforms from turning into war zones. Hence, technocrats and data scientist should be promoted nationally and internationally.

Finally, educational campaigns and awareness campaigns should be initiated to teach people right use of free speech. They must exercise their right without harming others. People should be made aware of consequences, laws and policies. They must be educated for positive speeches. Awareness and educational campaigns can be only beneficial if done with collective efforts from world.

In a nutshell, advancement of digital world has brought many challenges with blessings. Free speech and digital platforms have collided negatively as people have turned digital platforms into battleground. They share personal grudges against people, religion, nation or a leader. People don't fear consequences. Thus, the spread hateful words and speeches which spread hostility. Digital platforms are essential and can be beneficial for collective growth of nations if used positively. To ensure its positive use, laws, policies and penalties must be announced. People should be monitored and pushed for sharing positive content. Demonstrating positive views and tolerant speeches could avoid conflicts and wars in world. It can bring peace and stability. Digital platforms can only be recognized as blessing when used efficiently and positively with

free speech